



LANDSAT 7 MONTHLY UPDATE

The Landsat 7 Mission, developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Program News

New USGS Land Remote Sensing Program

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is preparing to realign the activities of the National Mapping Discipline into three offices, coincident with establishment of three new national programs to carry out the work of the Discipline. The offices of Cooperative Topographic Mapping, Land Remote Sensing, and Landscape Analysis will become the official organizational elements of the National Mapping Discipline effective October 1, 2001. R.J Thompson has been selected to lead the Office of Land Remote Sensing, and will function as the USGS Land Remote Sensing Program Coordinator. The Office of Land Remote Sensing will now have oversight responsibility for Landsat activities. Mr. Thompson will report to the Associate Director for Geography, USGS. His official address will be the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, and his email address remains rjthompson@usgs.gov.

Technical News

Data Validation

At this time there have been no new International Ground Station (IGS) data validations to report. Communications have continued with the Maspalomas, Spain, (Raw CC) and the Parepare, Indonesia, (LORp) Ground Stations for upcoming initial data validations. The Parepare Ground Station may be the first IGS to provide the USGS with LORp data via FTP. This will eliminate the cost of writing the Landsat 7 image data to media and the cost of shipping that media, in addition to the inherent 5 – 10 day time delay of international mail.

Metadata

Metadata from Canada and Australia continue to be archived successfully (GNC, PAC, HOA, and ASA). As of August 14th there were 5,106 L7 IGS subintervals archived for 97,719 L7 Worldwide Reference System scenes. EROS Data Center (EDC) received metadata from Hatoyama, Japan (HAJ) for evaluation. The HAJ metadata tested successfully. The metadata from Cordoba, Argentina (COA) is currently being corrected and resubmitted to EDC.

Activities at EDC are underway to facilitate metadata ingest from new IGS's. These activities include efforts to configure ingest software to support Matera, Italy (MTI). Another change involves the horizontal display shift field, which is required for ingest at this time, but will not be in the future based upon recent changes in the IGS Interface Control Document.

At this time EDC is ready to support the ingest of IGS metadata from Fucino, Italy (FUI), Kiruna, Sweden (KIS), Maspalomas, Spain (MPS), Neustrelitz, Germany (NSG), Cordoba, Argentina (COA), Hatoyama, Japan, (HAJ), and Hartebeesthoek, South Africa (JSA). Stations not all ready providing metadata to the EDC should can contact Paula Smit at smit@usgs.gov.

Calibration-Validation Working Group

EDC staff have formed an ad hoc Calibration-Validation Working Group (CVWG) as a means of facilitating discussion on instrument calibration and data validation issues associated with ongoing EDC projects. The group's initial objective is to enhance each participant's level of awareness of the scope of current activities and to stimulate information exchange. A longer term goal is for this group to serve as a forum for discussing technical issues, formulating and submitting proposals for additional research and funding, and to serve as a forum to define and/or review proposed solutions to new problems. The EDC CVWG would also serve as one of several USGS nodes of expertise in this area, and it would strive to strengthen bureau-wide collaboration on calibration-validation activities as appropriate. Those wishing to get involved in the CVWG may contact Jon Christopherson at jonchris@usgs.gov.

Meetings

Landsat Ground Stations Operations Working Group 30

The LGSOWG 30 meeting is scheduled for September 24 - 27, 2001, in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Those who have not visited Orlando before will find it to be a vibrant, international destination offering visitors an array of options and theme parks (Walt Disney World, Epcot, Universal Studios, Sea World and more). Due to the popularity of the Orlando area rooms are extremely limited; therefore, make sure you have made your reservations through Brad Heegl at heegl@wise.augie.edu or Jay Feuquay at feuquay@usgs.gov. The LGSOWG consists of ground station management from the USGS, NASA, and the Landsat International Cooperator Community,

Some of this year's topics for LGSOWG 30 will be mission operations including cloud avoidance, three tier priority implementation, DAAC metadata ingest, spacecraft and sensor performance for Landsat 5 and 7, ground systems, data exchange, USGS program restructuring, station reports, and EOS instruments and data.

Quarterly Management Meeting

The Landsat Quarterly Management Meeting (QMM) was held on August 14th and 15th at the EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD. The following are a few of the topics discussed: completion of the deorbiting maneuvers for Landsat 4 on June 15, 2001; continuation of Landsat 5 operations through Sept 30, 2001; and prospects for government funding of Landsat 5 operations in Fiscal Year 2002. The L7 turn-around-time is still being investigated; so far, no direct cause and effect link has been established to explain the increase in the turn around time.

Upcoming Meetings

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Location</u>
LGSOWG 30	Sept. 2001	Orlando, Florida
LTWG 11	Jan/Feb 2002	Australia
LTWG 12	May/June 2002	Argentina
LGSOWG 31	Sept. 2002	TBD
LTWG 13	Jan/Feb 2003	TBD

Related News

Welcome Aboard

Thailand signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to download Landsat 7 data on August 1, 2001. The Landsat 7 team, the LGSOWG, and the LTWG are looking forward to working closely with the Thailand Team.

New Operational Site

Matera, Italy (MTI) was declared operational as of August 1.

The Landsat 7 Monthly Update is an informal communication tool, prepared monthly and distributed electronically to USGS Landsat 7 partners, to provide information about Landsat 7 activities and related topics of interest. Comments, corrections, and queries may be directed to Judy Knox at the following email address: jknox@usgs.gov.